

## Indiana Department of Environmental Management Office of Water Quality Wetlands Section

Publication Date: June 2, 2011

Closing Date: PUBLIC NOTICE

IDEM ID Number: 2011-219-63-JWR-A

Corps of Engineers ID Number: LRL-2011-414-djd

June 22, 2011

To all interested parties: This letter shall serve as a formal notice of the receipt of an application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The purpose of the notice is to inform the public of active applications submitted for water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) and to solicit comments and information on any impacts to water quality related to the proposed project. IDEM will evaluate whether the project complies with Indiana's water quality standards as set forth at 327 IAC 2.

1. Applicant:

Mr. Mark Flint

President-Pike County Commissioners

Courthouse, 801 Main Street Petersburg, IN 47567 2. Agent: Mr. Jeremy Kieffner

Bernadin, Lochmueller and Associates

6200 Vogel Road Evansville, IN 47715

3. Project location:

SW 1/4, Section 16, Township 1 South, Range 8 West, Pike County, Petersburg USGS Quad.

The project is located on SR 57 approximately 5 miles south of the SR 57/SR56 intersection in Petersburg.

4. Affected waterbody:

Forested Wetland

5. Project Description:

The applicant proposes to relocate Belt Line Road under Interstate 69 at the proposed I-69 bridge crossing of Flat Creek and the adjacent railroad tract. The project will require the discharge of 5,000 cubic yards of clean earthen fill material into 0.30 of forested wetland. The project will also require the installation of a 47 foot long culvert into an unnamed tributary to Flat Creek. As compensatory mitigation for the wetland impacts, you propose to use 1.2 acres of available wetland acreage at the Bartley Mitigation Site. This mitigation site is previously approved as a contingency wetland mitigation site for the Interstate 69 Project. Additional information can be viewed at the following webpage address: <a href="http://www.in.gov/idem/6393.htm">http://www.in.gov/idem/6393.htm</a>.

Comment period:

Any person or entity who wishes to submit comments or information relevant to the aforementioned project may do so by the closing date noted above. Only comments or information related to water quality or potential impacts of the project on water quality can be considered by IDEM in the water quality certification review process.

**Public Hearing:** 

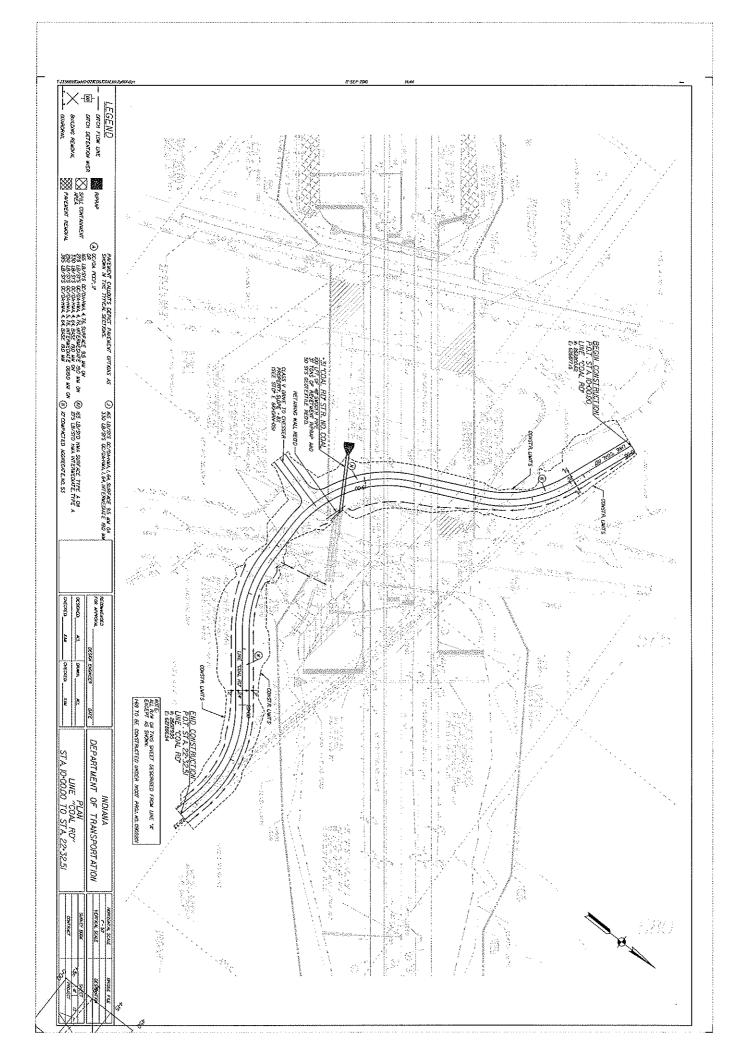
Any person may submit a written request that a public hearing be held to consider issues related to water quality in connection with the project detailed in this notice. The request for a hearing should be submitted within the comment period to be considered timely. The request should also state the reason for the public hearing as specifically as possible to assist IDEM in determining whether a public hearing is warranted.

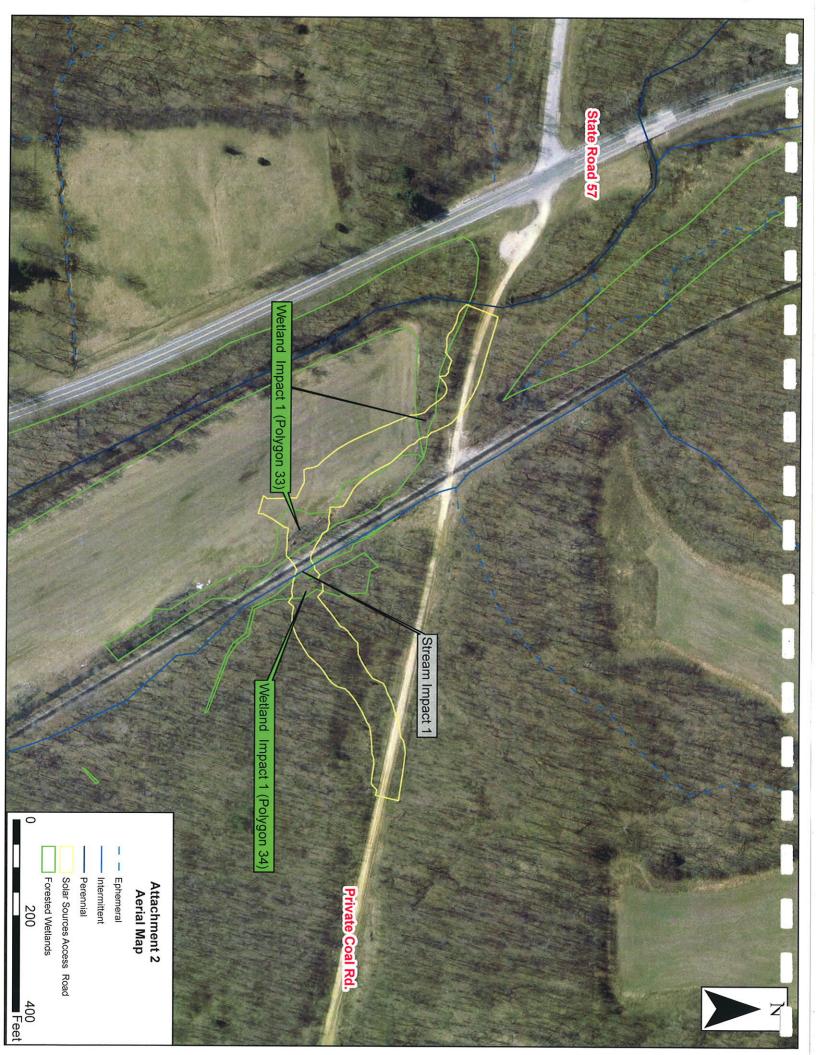
Questions?

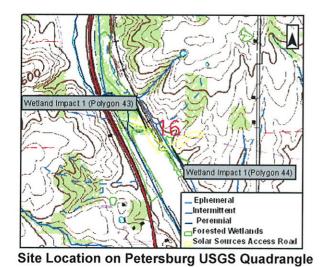
Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Jason Randolph, Project Manager, at 317-233-0467. Please address all correspondence to the project manager and reference the IDEM project identification number listed on this notice. Indicate if you wish to receive a copy of IDEM's final decision. Written comments and inquiries may be forwarded to -

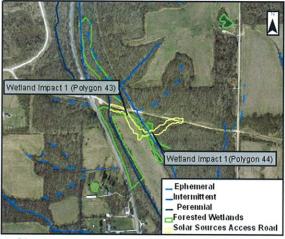
Indiana Department of Environmental Management 100 North Senate Avenue MC65-42 WQS IGCN 1255 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251 FAX: 317/232-8406

Version 1.0 -- 12/7/06









Site Location on 2009 Aerial Photograph

Aquatic Resource:

Wetland

**USGS Quadrangle:** 

Type:

Forested

Petersburg

Quarter: Range:

SW R8W

Township: **USCOE Jurisdiction:** 

Section:

T1S

Watershed:

Patoka River - Flat Creek

Yes **IDEM Jurisdiction:** Yes

Wetland Sec2–W43									
Polygon	Wetland	Area Ironantad	Wetland Quality Assessment						
ID	Type	Area Impacted (acres)	Wildlife Habitat Measure	Botanical Measure	Hydrology Measure				
43	Swamp Forest	0.24	Good	Fair	Fair				
44	Swamp Forest	0.06	Fair	Fair	Fair				
45	Swamp Forest	0	Good	Fair	Fair				

Description of Potential Impact: This 8.23 acre wetland complex is associated with Flat Creek and has been dissected by the railroad, the mine road and SR 57. Impacts to the entire complex would be 0.3 acres. The swamp forested wetland sections of this complex are dominated by red maple in the upper canopy and nettle and jewelweed in the herbaceous layer. Average plant diversity and sparse understory result in fair ratings for this complex for botanical and hydrological functions. INWRAP assessment for these resources indicates that despite the surrounding land use they provide some areas of good habitat for wildlife due to tree cover and maturity, presence of standing water, as well as areas of scattered woody material. This complex is determined to be under USACE and IDEM jurisdiction due to its hydrologic connection to Flat Creek.



Photograph 1 of polygon 43



Photograph 2 of polygon 43



Photograph 3 of polygon 43

## Wetland Sec2-W43



Photograph 1 of polygon 44



Photograph 2 of polygon 44 with 43(A) in rear ground



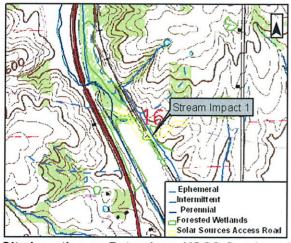
Photograph 3 of polygon 44

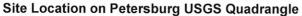


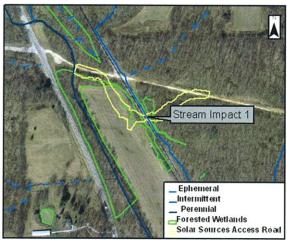
Photograph 1 of polygon 45



Photograph 2 of polygon 45







Site Location on 2009 Aerial Photograph

Aquatic Resource:

Stream

Watershed:

Patoka

Stream Name:

Unnamed Trib Flat Creek

Channelized:

No

County:

Pike

IDEM 303(d) List:

No

PLSS:

NW 1/4 Section 16 T1S R8W

OHWM Width ft:

4.0

UTME:

473348

**OHWM** Depth ft:

1.00

UTMN:

4253396

**USACE Jurisdiction:** 

Yes

**USGS** Quadrangle:

Petersburg

**IDEM Jurisdiction:** 

Yes

Stream Sec 2 S325							
Stream Name	Length of Impact	Area Impacted	Stream Habitat Assessment				
Unnamed Tributary Flat Creek	47 feet	0.01 acres	HHEI 44 / Class II				

Stream Type:

Intermittent

**Evaluation Type:** 

HHEI

**Evaluation Score:** 

44

Watershed Area (square miles):

0.03

Legal Drain:

No

Predominate Substrate:

Silt



Photograph taken looking upstream



Photograph taken looking downstream

agricultural practices and coal mining. Many of the streams impacted by this project have been channelized and the overbank riparian areas are often cultivated to the top of the banks and planted in row crops. These streams have a high potential for erosion and are susceptible to herbicide and pesticide runoff from adjacent farm fields. In general, the QHEI and HHEI scores for these streams were extremely low for the most part indicating a stressed condition.

## 2. Proposed Mitigation Site

The total area purchased by INDOT at this site location is 136 acres. This 136 acres will consist of 71.6 acres of existing upland and wetland forest and early successional habitat to mitigate for upland forest impacts, 46.4 acres of palustinre forested wetland restoration for contingency wetland forest mitigation, 6.2 acres of palustrine emergent wetland restoration for contingency emergent wetland mitigation, and 0.2 acre will be used as berms to enhance the hydrology of this mitigation site. The additional 11.6 acres at this site will be used for other purposes, 8.8 acres is being leased to two mining companies to be used for mitigation, 1.2 acres will be used by Pike County to mitigate impacts caused by a local road project, 1.3 acres is within the I-69 Section 2 Right-of-Way, and 0.3 acre will be used for ingress/egress to the mitigation site from CR 150. The existing wetlands that occur on the Bartley Mitigation Site property currently perform functions such as flood storage, retention of sediment particles transported by the Patoka River, water purification, food and cover for wildlife, and groundwater recharge. The proposed functions for the Bartley Mitigation Site will essentially remain the same, but will be expanded in size (i.e., storm water detention via the water control structures) and enhanced in quality for wildlife habitat through diversified woody species plantings.

## B. Functional Losses on Proposed Impact Site vs. Functional Gains on Proposed Mitigation Site:

The functional losses that will be incurred through the placement of fill within the wetlands and streams within the I-69 Section 2 project area are considered to be minimal in comparison to the functional gains that will be realized through the construction of the proposed Section 2 Contingency Mitigation Site. The anticipated functional gains of the proposed Bartley Mitigation Site, namely flood/storm water storage, water purification, groundwater recharge and improved wildlife habitat, will exceed the functional losses identified at the impact sites in terms of quantity of resource. Over time, the functional loss of wildlife habitat will also be offset when the newly created contingency mitigation site develops into a more mature bottomland/wetland forest and emergent wetland. Table 1 compares the functions of the wetlands being impacted by I-69 Section 2 compared to the functions that will be gained by the construction of the proposed mitigation sites.

Function	I-69 Section 2 Wetland Impact	Mitigation Sites	
	Areas	Existing	Proposed
Storm / Flood Water Retention	Minor	moderate	expanded capacity
Water Purification	Minor	moderate	expanded capacity
Groundwater Recharge	Minor	moderate	expanded capacity
Wildlife Food and Cover	Minor	moderate	notably improved